



UNCLASSIFIED

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

2/11/77 ARG Citizens
DD098 R

February 11, 1977

DECONTROL

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

☒ Release ☐ Excise ☐ Deny

Exemption(s):

~~Exempt~~ ☐ In Part ☒ In Full☐ Classify as ☐ Extend as ☐ Downgrade toDate ☐ Declassify on ☐ Reason

[REDACTED]

Ms. Yvonne Thayer
Political Officer
American Embassy
Buenos Aires

Dear Yvonne:

The enclosed memorandum from Charles Runyon speaks for itself. I'm not trying to get the Embassy involved in an issue which the IAHRG is following, but it seems more and more that the GOA release lists are highly misleading. Your comments would be helpful.

By the way, I finally met Olga Talamante on February 4. At the time, we discussed the human rights situation in Argentina and not her case. Mort Rosenbloom of AP was also present. As I think is obvious, I have adopted an open-door approach to my job and made myself available to anyone interested in Argentina.

I, therefore, telephoned Olga to double-check the information on Meeker's letter. She confirmed that she had talked to the prisoners' families in late January and, as of February 11, only Mirta Varela is free to Olga's knowledge.

One pending item, I had written earlier that I would send you an updated list of the cases I am following most actively as a result of Congressional or public pressure. I have decided against that because the very existence of such a list would lead people to try to find out whether their friends are listed. I don't want to play God or only go to bat for those with clout.

You had asked for a policy on human rights representations, and ARA may come up with one as a result of queries from other posts. However, the Embassy seems to have done its best for a wide range of people

[REDACTED]
UNCLASSIFIED80F178
22/185

UNCLASSIFIED

- 2 -

regardless of State instructions. I'd hate to limit your flexibility. You cannot guess how helpful your queries are, and the fact that you keep classifications as low as possible. Other posts go in grudgingly and then report back via secret cables. My work would be miserable if that happened to me.

So thanks!

Sincerely yours,

Fred

Fernando E. Rondon

Enclosure

P.S. I just read Human Rights Roundup #10 which comments on release lists and the state of legal play on the right of option. Very helpful.

*1 Fred said much
nicer things about
#10 and about
you in the phone.*

*Embassy comments on
lists have been reported
on various occasions
y.*

UNCLASSIFIED